

MONROE COUNTY NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: Public Information Officer
NEWS RELEASE: #12
DATE: April 5, 2003
TIME: 4:00 p.m.

County Executive Doyle Updates Community On Ice Storm Response

*State of Emergency To Remain In Effect In Monroe County
Throughout The Night, Residents Should Refrain From Any Unnecessary
Travel, New Shelter Site To Open*

Monroe County Executive Jack Doyle stated that due to the fact that 142,000 residents remain without power the State of Emergency in Monroe County will remain in effect, at least, until Sunday morning – when the situation will be reevaluated. Doyle also stressed that those people on the roads unnecessarily are hampering the ability of emergency responders and utility restoration crews.

“We are very concerned that those travelling unnecessarily are impeding the ability of work crews to restore power and phone service,” said Doyle. “We again ask people to stay home unless it is an emergency.”

It is anticipated that Governor Pataki will declare a State of Emergency at the State level that will include Monroe County.

“I have asked the Governor and his staff to declare a State of Emergency within Monroe County, so that the full resources of the State can be used to help those in need,” said Doyle.

Doyle has also reached out to Mayor Johnson and Jeanne Loberg, president of the Monroe County Supervisors Association.

The County Executive stressed again the need for people to **exercise extreme caution** in using alternative heating sources such as wood-burning stoves, fireplaces and others that emit Carbon Monoxide as exhaust. **At least 12 people have been taken to hospitals due to the effects of Carbon Monoxide poisoning.**

*****Frontier Telephone and Monroe County have also asked that residents without a dial tone that need emergency services go to their nearest fire house for assistance.*****

The American Red Cross will also open a new shelter at Pittsford-Sutherland High School at 55 Sutherland Drive in Pittsford at 5:00 p.m. The shelter will provide meals. Please refer below for a complete list of available shelters.

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Monroe County residents are reminded that 911 is an emergency number. Calls to the 911 Center should be limited to those calls requiring police, fire or emergency medical services only. In addition, Residents should call 911 for sump pump problems **ONLY** when it is a life safety hazard. If power outlets have become submerged or furnace pilot lights are out as a result of basement flooding, a call to 911 is warranted.

Doyle also emphasized the following safety measures should be taken by all residents:

- Drivers approaching railroad tracks should be very careful and stop, look and listen before crossing due to the fact the signal lights and guard rails are without power, in some instances.
- Persons reporting to work are encouraged to carpool when possible or to use public transportation. RTS will be running their normal weekend service and can be contacted at 654-0200 for further information on routes and times.
- Residents living in low-lying areas where drainage problems typically occur should monitor stream levels and drainage structures for flooding.
- Keep children and pets away from damaged and downed power lines.
- Watch for falling debris and ice as the wind speed increases.
- All intersections where traffic lights are without power should be treated as four-way stops.
- 911 calls should be limited to those calls requiring police, fire or emergency medical services only.
- Lastly, check in on the elderly or mobility-impaired neighbors to ensure they are safe.

For additional information, residents should continue to monitor the local media coverage.

In addition, residents without power should contact RG&E Customer Service at 546-1100. However, downed power lines and other dangerous situations should be reported to 911.

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The additional shelter sites are as follows:

- **Hilton at West Avenue School, 225 West Ave.**
- **Greece Arcadia High School, 130 Island Cottage Road, Greece**
- **Penfield Community Center, 1985 Baird Road, Penfield**
- **Gates Community Center, 1605 Buffalo Road, Gates**
- **Carter Street Recreation Center, 500 Carter Street, Rochester**
- **School 42, 3330 Lake Avenue, Rochester**

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For further information, call:
Public Information Office at 279-4144